



Indiana Court Times

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Indiana Courts Website Ranks #1 and #3 in International Competitions

Take your time to surf around www.in.gov/judiciary and you'll see why the court's website has been honored with two major awards.

The site was named the #1 court website by the National Center for State Courts and #3 in an international competition among 3,000 sites sponsored by Justice Served.

Competitors from around the world were included in both contests and winners ranged from courts in Ireland and Australia to Hawaii and Vermont.

The National Center for State Courts chose Indiana's website as #1 because of its ease of use and high-quality information, and the competition included not just U.S.-based court websites but entries from around the world.

Honoring the Indiana Courts' website as number three, Justice Served judges noted:

"This site has a good organizational structure, with features for the public, judges, attorneys, law students and K-12 educators. They offer online child support calculation, online access to opinions, and their citizens guide has several informative streaming videos. It's not easy to win a place in this listing, and all the winners this year deserve high praise for their commitment to superior

public service." Technical development of the Indiana

Courts website is overseen by the Division of State Court Administration and the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC). The web team includes two full-time and two part-time employees at the JTAC office. It is a true team effort. Many of the interactive web applications available on the site, including Attorney Records Online and the Clerk's Online Docket, were developed by Appellate Court Technology staff housed at the Division.

"This is an achievement we can all share, because the success of our website depends primarily on the efforts of the people who contribute its most important feature—content," said Lindsey Borschel, JTAC's Web Coordinator.

To view the National Center for State Courts winners visit: <http://www.ncsconline.org/What'sNew/NewsAlerts/CTCWebSite.html>

To view the Justice Served winners visit: <http://justiceserved.com/top10sites.cfm>.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ The Appellate Opinions website is accessed an average of 12,700 times per day.
- ◆ The most commonly viewed Rules of Court are the Indiana Child Support Guidelines.
- ◆ The July 2005 Bar Exam results were viewed more than 4,000 times the day they were published (Sept. 30).
- ◆ The most common duration of a user's visit to our website is 15-29 minutes.
- ◆ The Indiana Courts website had almost eight million hits in the first half of this year. That is a thirty-four percent increase over the same period in 2004.
- ◆ Indiana Courts website traffic peaked in March 2005 with an all time high of over 1,090,000 hits.



Jury Pool Project Assures More Representative Juries in Indiana

On Thursday, September 15, 2005, Justice Theodore R. Boehm announced to the Judicial Conference of Indiana that the Jury Pool Project has produced a master list for each county to use in the formation of jury pools. The impetus for this project was Jury Reform implemented by the Supreme Court in 2002.

As part of the new jury rules, the Supreme Court required that juries be drawn from as broad a spectrum as possible and mandated the use of multiple sources. Recognizing that drivers license and tax records contain the most current and most comprehensive lists of prospective voters, the court focused its attention on how to combine these lists and make them available to the trial courts.

With the help of grant funds, the Judicial Conference Jury Committee and JTAC staff of the Division of State Court Administration undertook to find the right technology that would “cleanse” and combine the two lists.

In order to form the master list, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles sent its list to the Department of Revenue where the data was merged and duplicates were removed. Once this process was complete, a special program moved names of people that were deceased, had moved out of state, or were underaged. The entire list was verified through a U.S. Postal Service address validation program and then segmented into individual county lists. The list will be updated annually.

This statewide master list of prospective jurors is more representative of Indiana’s 18 and over

population which was 4,506,089 according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The list contains 4,503,032 names. By including Department of Revenue records, which are updated annually, and using the U.S. Postal Service address validation process, this list provides courts the most accurate and up-to-date information available. These efforts translate into more people participating in the jury system and reduced mailing costs for counties.

The Jury Pool Project was made possible by the joint efforts of the Supreme Court, Jury Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, Division of State Court Administration, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, Indiana Judicial Center, Department of Revenue, and Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This project also received funding assistance from a grant awarded by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and technical assistance from Purdue University as well as local jury administrators from Allen, Henry, Hamilton, Huntington, Lake, Lawrence, and Marion counties.

Questions may be addressed to Michelle C. Goodman, Staff Attorney, Indiana Judicial Center, 317-232-1313, mgoodman@courts.state.in.us; or Joy Hess, JTAC, 317-234-2756, jhess@jatac.state.in.us.

Michelle C. Goodman

Outsourced Jury Trial Transcripts —A Hard Lesson Learned

The Marion Superior Court found itself in a somewhat embarrassing situation when it was reported that some jury trial transcription work had ended up in Hong Kong for typing of the record.

The outsourcing of this work had been done without any knowledge on the part of any Judge in the Superior Court and raised obvious concerns about privacy issue, security issues as well as the completeness and accuracy of the transcripts that were typed. The leadership of the Court instituted an immediate investigation into the specifics of those transcripts that had been outsourced and commenced a broader investigation into how wide spread the practice of outsourcing transcripts was among all reporters of the Court.

The Court Reporter Model adopted by the Marion Superior Court was model option one under Rule 15 of the Indiana Supreme Court Administrative Rules. A written contract was developed and approved by all Judges of the Court and was signed by every court reporter in our system. Sections of the agreement set forth reporters responsibility to prepare the record of proceedings. In addition, the Judges of the Court reviewed and passed a very detailed policy as to how transcription work on the records was to be assigned to the various reporters. Unfortunately what the investigation revealed was that the policy statement had never been widely circulated to the reporters and several of them had no knowledge of the policy on transcription work. While the reporters all signed the Court Reporter Agreement there was a lack of understanding of all of their responsibilities within that agreement, especially on the subject of assignment of transcription work. There had been a number of revisions of the Court Reporter Agreement in the past three years and some reporters had never

bothered to fully comprehend the changes that had been made.

The investigation revealed that only a few reporters had sent work to a private reporting service. The work done by that service included typing records, proofreading, formatting and scoping. None of the court reporters that sent work to the private reporting firm, however, knew that the firm would send the work out of the country. The reporters were not aware of the arrangement between the private firm and the off shore reporting company.

Disciplinary action was taken against reporters where appropriate for the violation of the agreement and the policy of the Court. There has been a realization that a better, more defined court reporter agreement needs to be written and approved. There needs to be better explanations and training on the terms of the reporter agreement. There also needs to be better communication and training on Court policies that impact our court reporters.

Clearly the Court was embarrassed to learn that a few of our records ended up in Hong Kong. Our investigation however revealed that the practice of sending work to outside sources was very limited in scope and number. We learned that our reporters did not fully understand their responsibilities under the agreement they all signed and the Court learned that we need to do a better job in communicating our expectations and improve training for our reporters on the terms of the new court reporter agreement we will present to them.

Mark Renner

Indiana Judges Association Presents “Excellence in Public Information and Education” Awards

Each year the Indiana Judges Association presents the “Excellence in Public Information and Education” awards to deserving judges and journalists. The awards for 2005 were presented to Bartholomew Superior Court Judge Chris D. Monroe and newspaper reporters Ruthann Robinson and Frank Wiget.

The Honorable Stanley Levine, Allen Superior Court Judge and former chair of the Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, made the presentations during the September 2005 Indiana Judges Association luncheon.

The IJA gives two “Excellence in Public Information and Education” awards each year. One award is presented to a member of the Indiana judiciary for special efforts in community relations and the other award is presented to a member of the news media for efforts in responsible reporting on the Indiana judiciary.

Bartholomew Circuit Judge Stephen R. Heimann nominated Judge Monroe for his extensive outreach work, energy and leadership. He said: “Judge Monroe works tirelessly on behalf of the judiciary in our community and throughout the state. He is a judge who elevates the status of the judiciary and makes me proud to be a judge.”

Lake Circuit Judge Lorenzo Arredondo, who is now chair of the Community Relations Committee, nominated Ruthann Robinson of the Times of Northwest Indiana. Judge Arredondo wrote that Ms. Robinson’s coverage of the courts in Lake County is “very unique, in depth, comprehensive and balanced.”

The judges of the Porter Superior Court nominated retired Gary Post-Tribune reporter Frank Wiget. A reporter for 36 years, he covered the courts in Porter County for the last half of his career before retiring in 2005. The judges wrote: “Frank Wiget reported court proceedings accurately, fairly, and without agenda. He translated complex legal terms into words the readers of Porter County could understand. Although we do not single out any particular article for nomination, we nominate Frank Wiget for the duration and completeness of his work for those near 20 years.”

In addition to Judge Monroe,

a number of other individuals received nominations, including Magistrate Kathleen Lang (now judge of the LaPorte Superior Court), Posey Circuit Judge James M. Redwine, Lawrence Superior Court Judge Michael Robbins, Monroe Circuit Judge Kenneth G. Todd, Hancock Superior Court Judge Terry Snow, Lake Superior Court Judge Diane Kavadias Schneider, U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr., and Porter Superior Court Judge David L. Chidester.

In the news media category, WJOB Radio of Lake County was also nominated.

Nominations are now being accepted for 2006. The awards will be presented at the Indiana Judges Association luncheon on September 15, 2006 in South Bend.

For further information or a copy of the nomination forms, please contact Jennifer Bauer at 317-232-1313. Nomination forms are also available online at www.in.gov/judiciary/center.

Dave Remondini

Supreme Court Arranges for \$25,000 in Translation Services

The Indiana Supreme Court has dedicated \$25,000 to provide Indiana courts with foreign language interpretation by telephone for less regionally familiar languages, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced.

“The diversity of language in our state’s population has created difficult challenges for our courts. Increasingly, Indiana trial judges are faced with needing interpreter services promptly for many foreign languages. Of the thirty-six counties who sought assistance this year under the Court Interpreter Grant Program, fifteen court systems needed interpreter services for languages other than Spanish or sign language. These courts reported interpretation needs for twenty-six other languages ranging from Arabic to Punjabi to Urdu. While much of our current effort focuses on Spanish interpreting, there is obviously need for attention to speakers of other languages,” Chief Justice Shepard said. Recognizing the strain that such language issues place on trial courts, the Indiana Supreme Court has contracted with Language Line Services to provide \$25,000 worth of telephone foreign language interpretation on an as-needed basis. Language Line Services is an over-the-phone interpretation service based in Monterey, California, which provides interpreta-

tion services in more than 140 languages. Language Line Services is available 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Interpreters are required to be familiar with police and 911 procedures and have hundreds of hours of interpreting experience. In general, the service is for any Indiana trial court that needs services other than Spanish for hearings that are twenty minutes or less. “I thank Judge Douglas Morton from Fulton Circuit Court as his recommendations helped spearhead this initiative, and to Lilly Judson’s Division of State Court Administration staff for making it happen,” said Chief Justice Shepard. This initiative is one of several the Supreme Court has taken to improve language services in the courts. In addition to the use of Language Line and the Court Interpreter Grant program, the Supreme Court has also established a Court Interpreter Program that certifies qualified court interpreters. For more information on the Court Interpreter Program visit: www.in.gov/judiciary/interpreter/

Dave Remondini

Division of State Court Administration and the Judicial Conference Court Management Committee to Begin Disaster Recovery Planning Project in 2006

With unrelenting media coverage of terrorism, tornadoes, hurricanes and looming bird flu pandemics, the Court Management Committee's new project seems particularly timely, even though it was in the works before it was known just how disastrous Hurricane Katrina would prove for the Gulf Coast's legal system.

In January 2006, the Court Management Committee with assistance from the Division of State Court Administration will begin the process of helping Indiana's trial courts prepare for interruptions in their operations caused by natural disasters, human malevolence or infectious outbreaks of disease. Plans to address these situations are commonly known as "COOPs" (Continuity of Operations Plans).

Rather than presenting the trial courts with a completed plan, the Court Management Committee intends to design a template from which the trial courts can develop their own plans. COOP development requires that each court first identify those operations that must continue and then determine what personnel, facilities, equipment and communication tools are essential to performing those functions. The trial courts themselves are in the best position to conduct this analysis. The intent is to assist the courts in their disaster planning and in obtaining alternative resources before disaster strikes.

As local courts develop their COOPs, they will pay particular attention to the constraints of the Indiana and US Constitutions, applicable statutes and their own court rules. It is critical that the courts give priority to the administration of justice in their analysis. Thus, part of the Committee's project will be determining how to work within the needs of the justice system and, if that proves unwieldy or impossible, whether to recommend changes to the

law or rules. For example, one potential problem area to consider is how to deal with a major epidemic if the health authorities impose quarantines. How would that be reconciled with the requirement that attorneys meet face-to-face with their clients?

The Honorable Lynn Murray, Judge, Howard Circuit Court, is leading the efforts of the COOP development project as the Acting Chair of the Court Management Committee. A Homeland Security Planner from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security will be providing some initial guidance and education to the Committee.

In addition, the Court Management Committee will take advantage of the public health expertise of Judge Linda Chezem, formerly of our Court of Appeals. Judge Chezem has developed a public health law benchbook. She will now be focusing her efforts on coordinating the portion of COOP that addresses an outbreak of infectious disease or other public health problems, such as exposure to anthrax. Also, Colleen O'Brien, staff attorney with the Division of State Court Administration will staff the committee.

Indiana courts can be proud of their leadership role in this important area. While there are other states that have addressed interruptions caused by natural disasters or terrorism, to our knowledge this project is the first of its kind to address the public health aspect of disaster recovery.

Colleen O'Brien

Local Rules: Off the Bulletin Boards and Onto the Internet

It has been more than ten months since Chief Justice Randall Shepard told the Indiana General Assembly in his State of the Judiciary address that local court rules would be posted on the Internet instead of a courthouse bulletin board.

And, he was absolutely correct, as more than 69 counties have submitted their local court rules for posting on our judicial website at www.in.gov/judiciary.

That is good reason to cheer, but once again it is only good enough. And as the Chief also said in that same speech: good enough is not good enough. So if you do the math we still have 23 counties who still do not have their local court rules posted on the judicial website.

Now is the time to send local court rules to the Division of State Court Administration. Ideally local courts will send them electronically but we will accept hard copies as well. Please send them to localrules@courts.state.in.us. We will see that they are posted to our website.

The second part of the promise to the General Assembly was that these local court rules would follow a uniform format so that citizens and lawyers who travel away from home can have a fighting chance at finding and understanding them. This means that all of the counties must have one set of local court rules and those rules must follow the format designed by the Local Rules Committee headed by Appellate Court Judge Margret Robb and supported through the staff at the Division of State Court Administration.

The format will look like this example: "LR-49-AR-15-1" consisting of five groups of characters which are "LR" indicating that it is a local rule; followed by the two-digit county identifier; followed by the state rule to which the local rule pertains; followed by the number of the state level rule to which the local rule relates; and, any number of characters assigned by the local courts to indicate

the local sequence.

Many counties have already completed this exercise and have new local rules in place well before the January 1, 2007 deadline. But our goal is to have all counties posted on the judicial web site as soon as possible and each county in compliance with the requirements of TR 81 in time for that cut off date. We are ready to assist in any way possible in helping our local courts meet their target date.

What is the most common area of confusion or misunderstanding that we have witnessed so far in the implementation of this project to bring each county into compliance with TR 81? Probably the biggest area deals with Court Reporter fees and Administrative Rule 15. Every county must adopt a local rule by which all court reporter services shall be governed, that must be approved by the Indiana Supreme Court, including any amendments that attempt to raise the court reporter fees.

In addition to the court reporter services requirement for Supreme Court Approval, local courts must also have local rules, and Supreme Court approval, in the following areas: special judge selection in civil cases pursuant to TR 79(H); assignment of criminal cases and selection of successor judges pursuant to Criminal Rule 2.2; and case reallocation plans pursuant to the Weighted Caseload Measures system as ordered by Supreme Court Order of July 16, 1999. So, even if a county decides to repeal all local rules the above local rules at least would have to be adopted.

Please let us know if we can provide assistance. You may call me at 317-233-3018 (Direct Line) or email me at jmaguire@courts.state.in.us.

James F. Maguire

Diversity Summit 2005: An Exchange of Ideas

The Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness launched its first Diversity Summit on October 14-15, 2005 at the Madame Walker Theatre and Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis.

Nearly 200 people attended this two-day event aimed at promoting dialogue and encouraging participants to examine a number of diversity issues within the legal system. Long-time civil rights activist Harry Belafonte delivered the keynote address, sharing his philosophy that “the role of the artist is to not only show life as it is, but show life as it should be.”

Diversity Summit 2005 came about as a specific recommendation from the Indiana Supreme Court’s Commission on Race and Gender Fairness, led by former Indiana Supreme Court justice Myra Selby and Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Ezra Friedlander. Created in 1999, the Commission was charged with examining issues involving race and gender in Indiana courtrooms and making recommendations for improvements. After three years of research, the Commission submitted its Executive Report and Recommendations to the Indiana Supreme Court, making twenty-four recommendations in various areas affecting Indiana’s legal system. As the Commission moves to the implementation phase of the study’s recommendations, members placed a high priority on receiving input from other representatives of the judiciary, bar, law schools, bar associations, law enforcement, corrections, and other entities as to how to best implement these recommendations.

Diversity Summit 2005 began with a formal dinner on Friday evening. Given his continued commitment to the goals of the Commission on Race and Gender Fairness, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard provided opening remarks to commence the Summit. He spoke about the legal system’s historic and challenging role in the struggle for diversity and equality.

The Saturday schedule for the two-day Summit included substantive breakout sessions on a variety of diversity topics. Both national and local speakers came to Indianapolis to serve on panels for the following sessions:

- 1 Prosecutorial Discretion: Striving to Achieve Equal Justice,
 - 2 Jury Trends and Innovation,
 - 3 Recruiting and Retaining Minority Law Enforcement Officers,
 - 4 Improving Diversity in Legal Education,
 - 5 What’s Diversity Got to Do With It?
 - 6 The International Community’s Access to the Courts,
 - 7 Juvenile Ethnic Gangs,
 - 8 Urban vs. Rural Sentencing: Diversity, Inequity or Reality, and
 - 9 Social Consciousness and Sexual Orientation.
- Panelists then delved into topics, some controversial—some less so, with candor and enthusiasm about today’s diversity issues in the legal system.
- Saturday afternoon, Harry Belafonte delivered his keynote address before a crowd of over 500 (tickets for his keynote address were open to the general public) at the historic Madame Walker Theatre. Belafonte recounted his childhood experiences in a segregated American society. He also chronicled his call to action for civil rights as he became a close friend to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and assisted in uniting cultural elements behind the marches in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama and the Freedom March in Washington D.C. in 1963. Belafonte also described his recent humanitarian endeavors with the We Are The World and Hands Across America hunger benefits as well as his continuing commitment to UNICEF.
- By all accounts, Diversity Summit 2005 was deemed a tremendous success, generating energy and ideas for improving Indiana’s legal system. Members of the Commission on Race and Gender Fairness thank all in attendance at the Diversity Summit as the ideas originating from the Summit will further assist Commission members in implementing the recommendations from the 2002 Executive Report. Copies of the Commission’s 2002 Executive Report and Recommendations as well as notes from the substantive breakout sessions from Diversity Summit 2005 can be viewed online at www.in.gov/judiciary/fairness.

Adrienne Meiring

A Student's Perspective of the Diversity Summit

(The Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness awarded 16 scholarships for law students to attend Diversity Summit 2005. Here is one student's account of the experience.)

I spent the weekend in Indianapolis for Diversity Summit 2005. Much to my amazement, the Commission on Race and Gender Fairness fit into two days a whirlwind of activities, all focused on race and gender equity issues in the courts.

Harry Belafonte delivered the keynote address. Before the Diversity Summit, I wasn't aware of Mr. Belafonte's active involvement in international human rights; I only knew him for the *Banana Boat Song*. (Where have I been?) At the Summit, he spoke to attendees about the struggles of people around the world and why he became active in international human rights. Moreover, many in the audience, myself included, were moved by Mr. Belafonte's vivid portrayal of his encounters with key historical figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

It was humbling to be in the presence of a man who had done so much for the world's people. I found his speech inspirational; it made me want to go out there - wherever *there* may be - and work for, and with, those who could most benefit from my help. His words will stay with me as I continue my legal career.

At the Summit, I attended the panel discussions on prosecutorial discretion, improving diversity in legal education, social consciousness, and sexual

orientation. I found it encouraging that legal professionals were comfortable speaking so candidly about their experiences and views on topics like affirmative action and the GLBT rights movement.

As a first-year law student with limited exposure to the actual practice of law, listening to these legal professionals discuss their experiences as part of today's complicated legal landscape somehow made the law more real to me. The law involves real people with real problems; they are not two-dimensional characters in a legal case book.

At the Summit, I met lawyers, judges, law professors, police officers, court personnel, activists, and other law students. I was touched to see that these individuals took time from their busy schedules to learn more about current issues facing the courts, and about how they can work to improve conditions for minorities in the legal system. I was also pleased to see that many understood the term "minorities" to cover other marginalized groups such as women, people who identify themselves as GLBT, and immigrants.

I'm already looking forward to attending next year's Diversity Summit!

Chai Ri Park

2005 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana

It's been a busy year for the Indiana Judicial Center's judicial education department. We have had programs in January, April, June, September, October, November and December.

While our judicial education programming spans only eighteen days in 2005, those eighteen days account for 151 hours of judicial education programming. The 2005 annual judicial conference, which pursuant to statute, every Indiana judge of a court of record is required to attend, took place on September 14-16 at

the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis.

Four hundred forty-seven judicial officers attended the Annual Meeting this year. The Annual Meeting accounted for 37.5 of the 151 hours of judicial programming this year. While the Conference didn't

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

officially start until Wednesday afternoon, “early bird” sessions on Wednesday morning gave judges additional education to go to these sessions, featured a “best practices” discussion on cash and surety bonds, a panel discussion on political activities, and a presentation on personality disorders. The Wednesday Plenary Session officials started the annual meeting with a keynote presentation on “Judicial Independence: Free to Be You and Me” by Judge Sarah Evans Barker, United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana. The educational program then offered attendees the choice of attending twenty-six different sessions included: cooperative divorces, “best practices” in small claims cases, Department of Correction round-table discussion, legislative update, S.E.A. 96 & Blakely, the judicial ethics “Jeopardy” game, the epidemic of methamphetamine, mitigating the effects of stress, and a panel discussion on what you always wanted to know about avoiding reversal

but were afraid to ask. Attendees also had the option of participating in “early bird” table discussions on a variety of diverse topics, various computer classes, judicial officer benefit sessions sponsored by staff from the Division of State Court Administration as well as sessions on yoga and including fitness in your life. Worthy of a special note here are several special activities the conference honored Chief Justice Shepard for his 20 years of service to the Supreme Courts, conducted an open house and tour of the Indiana State House, viewed a collection of historical documents from the Remnant Trust Foundation, held the seventy-first annual meeting of the Indiana Judges Association, and honored the latest graduates of the Indiana Judicial College. By all accounts it was a tremendous conference. The 2006 Annual Meeting is set for September 13-15, 2006, at the Century Center in South Bend.

Vicki Davis

Initial Hearing Rights Videos and DVDs in Spanish Made Available to Indiana Trial Court Judges

In another effort to assist Indiana trial court judges with language challenges in their courtrooms, the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness produced DVDs and videos in Spanish that can be shown to a criminal defendant at initial hearing explaining his/her constitutional rights and the possible criminal penalties the individual may face if convicted.

The videos/DVDs detail possible penalties for classes of crimes ranging from murder all the way down to Class C misdemeanors.

The Commission’s hope in creating these videos/DVDs is that courts will no longer have to postpone an initial hearing of a Spanish-speaking defendant when a Spanish interpreter is not available.

The script for the initial hearing rights video was created by legal staff at the Division of State Court Administration, tracking scripts already used in a number of counties for initial hearings. Judges and attorneys within the Commission also reviewed the script. Then, two Indiana certified interpreters, Christina Courtright and Diana Vegas, translated the

approved script into Spanish. Finally, the Commission utilized two other certified interpreters, Irene Bublik and Lourdes Daily, as the speakers for the videos and DVDs. English subtitles follow along with the Spanish content on the videos and DVDs.

The Commission first distributed the DVDs and videos to judges at the Indiana Judicial Conference in October 2005. Additional complimentary copies of the videos and DVDs are available to any judge who did not already receive a copy at the judicial conference. To obtain a copy of the initial hearing rights video or DVD, please contact Sarah Shoup at 317-232-2542 or by email at sshoup@courts.state.in.us.

Adrienne Meiring

Indiana Supreme Court Receives \$1 Million Grant to Help Clerks Send Information to BMV

The Supreme Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee received one of the largest grants ever awarded to Indiana Courts, to help Indiana improve highway safety and retain federal funds.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration awarded the \$1 million grant to help court clerks electronically transfer conviction information to the state Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

There are more than 10,000 conviction reports currently either mailed and faxed each week to the BMV. Federal rules now require that this data be sent to the BMV within 10 days of conviction. Prompt reporting is especially critical because failure to do so could mean losing more than \$60 million in federal highway funds.

Chief Justice Shepard and Governor Daniels jointly announced this cooperative effort between the courts, clerks and BMV. JTAC began working in March and has contacted virtually every circuit court clerk as well as city and town court clerks throughout the state to determine how they send information to the BMV.

Following dozens of site visits JTAC announced that counties would have several choices on how they move to the electronic transfer of information to the BMV. The first option may be a simple upgrade to a county's current case management system. JTAC will provide another option for counties that do not

have an electronic system or can't afford to upgrade. It is a web-based solution that allows clerks to enter conviction information electronically and send it via the Internet.

Working with the BMV, the court is also offering common-sense solutions. For example, clerks can put their information on a disk and deliver it to the local BMV office. JTAC is also paying for computer training for local staff that processes BMV conviction reports.

"This grant will allow counties to send data electronically instead of by fax and mail, creating a system that is faster and more efficient," said Chief Justice Shepard. "This partnership between the courts and BMV will also make Indiana's roadways safer by providing immediate notification of serious convictions of commercial drivers."

These new tools for counties will be part of the court's Case Management System currently under development. The CMS will connect courts in all 92 Indiana counties with each other, the public and state agencies such as the BMV, State Police and Family and Social Services Administration.

Cindy Collier

Food for Thought

A pun does not commonly justify a blow in return. But if a blow were given for such cause, and death ensued, the jury would be judges both of the facts and of the pun, and might, if the latter were of an aggravated character, return a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

The dichotomy between personal liberties and property rights is a false one. Property does not have rights. People have rights.

Potter Stewart

We may win when we lose, if we have done what we can; for by so doing we have made real at least some part of that finished product in whose fabrication we are most concerned: ourselves.

Learned Hand

Marriage is a coming together for better or for worse, hopefully enduring, and intimate to the degree of being sacred.

William O. Douglas

In This Issue

Indiana Courts Website Ranks #1 and #3 in International Competitions	1
Jury Pool Project Assures More Representative Juries in Indiana	2
Outsourced Jury Trial Transcripts--A Hard Lesson to Learn	3
JTAC Wins \$1 Million Grant for Project with Clerks, BMV	4
Indiana Judges Association Presents "Excellence in Public Information and Education" Awards	4
Supreme Court Arranges for \$25,000 in Translation Services	5
Division of State Court Administration and the Judicial Conference Court Management Committee to Begin Disaster Recovery Planning Project in 2006	6
Local Rules: Off the Bulletin Boards and Onto the Internet	7
Diversity Summit 2005: An Exchange of Ideas	8
A Student's Perspective of the Diversity Summit	9
2005 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana	9
Initial Hearing Rights Videos and DVDs in Spanish Made Available to Indiana Trial Court Judges	10
Indiana Supreme Court Receives \$1 Million Grant to Help Clerks Send Information to BMV	11
Food For Thought	11
Index	12

Our goal is to foster communications, respond to concerns, and contribute to the spirit and pride that encompasses the work of all members of the judiciary around the state. We welcome your comments, suggestions and news. If you have an article, advertisement, announcement, or particular issue you would like to see in our publication, please contact us.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, or by accessing our website, please send a message to dguthrie@courts.state.in.us to have your name added to our electronic list and removed from our hardcopy mailing list.

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Please Circulate to Co-workers

**This newsletter reports on
important administrative matters.
Please keep for future reference.**

Indiana Court Times

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